GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2300
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2001
LEGISLATION TO CHECK ATROCITIES ON WOMEN
RAM SINGH KASWAN

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women's organizations which give protection to oppressed women and encourage them to stand against the atrocities committed against them:

(b) whether the Government propose to enact a legislation to check atrocities against women;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the legislation is likely to come into force?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) The Government has constituted the National Commission forWomen (NCW) as a national apex level statutory body to, inter-alia, investigate and examine all matters relating to the safeguards provided for women under the Constitution and other laws; take up the cases of violations of the provisions of the constitution and other laws relating to women with the appropriate authorities; and look into complaints and take suo-moto notice of matters relating to deprivation of women's rights.

In discharge of its mandated functions, the NCW interacts with and supports some programmes of voluntary organisations. But it does not maintain a comprehensive directory of such organisations.

(b),(c)&(d) The Government has already enacted a numberof legislations to check atrocities against women. The Indian PenalCode has several provisions to deal with offences against women such as the offence of dowry death, the offence of cruelty, both mental and physical, offence of molestation, rape etc. Apart from the general Criminal Laws, the Government has also enacted special laws like Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, Indecent Represenation of Women

(Prohibition) Act, 1986, Immoral Traffic (Prevention)Act, 1956 and the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act,1987 to check atrocities against women.

The Department of Women and Child Development is also consideringenactment of a legislation called Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, 2001 to prevent domestic violence against women. The specific legal provisions in this regard are being finalised.